



FEMA

NEWS RELEASE STATE/FEDERAL DISASTER FIELD OFFICE JOINT INFORMATION CENTER



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Complete and Return SBA Applications

Even if you don't want a loan

EVERETT, WA—In the aftermath of the October 15-23 severe storms and flooding that struck Washington, people who seek disaster assistance may find that they have also been issued a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan application. These applications are sent to all applicants (both individuals and business owners) who may qualify for an SBA loan, or who desire grants other than Disaster Housing Assistance.

Diane Offord, State Coordinating Officer for the disaster said, "The loan application provides necessary information for determining the appropriate assistance for that applicant, but the applicant must mail the application back first. If an individual does not qualify for a loan, they may be referred to other available disaster assistance programs. The application must be completed before other federal assistance can be considered."

"It is important that you complete this application if you need financial assistance," said Federal Coordinating Officer, Anthony Russell. "The SBA loan is an important source of recovery funds."

The SBA can provide loans to homeowners and renters, as well as non-agricultural businesses, to help pay for the repair or replacement of disaster losses. These loans are at low interest rates and long terms that make the loans affordable.

People who suffered damage from the October storms who have not applied should call the registration/helpline number to begin the recovery process. FEMA's toll-free number is 1-800-621-FEMA. For the hearing- or speech-impaired, the TTY number is 1-800-462-7585. The registration telephone number is available 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday until further notice.

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

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Note to Editors: Disaster information is available on FEMA's World Wide Web at <http://www.fema.gov> or the Washington Emergency Management Division at <http://emd.wa.gov>